

## How Elementary School Placement is Decided

### **Burlington has [six elementary schools](#):**

In 2009 we moved away from having six neighborhood schools with defined zones or boundaries to more of a school choice model. Therefore a specific address does not ensure where a student will get in or attend elementary school. That being said, roughly 80% of families choose to register and ultimately send their elementary age kids to their neighborhood schools; these are generally the schools that are closest to where a family lives.

### **Registration:**

To register, families complete an online registration packet starting with [pre-registration](#). Once this is approved we then send you an automated webmail from [powerschool@bsdvt.org](mailto:powerschool@bsdvt.org) that includes the next steps. Part of these next steps include ranking elementary school preferences 1-6. Most years, all but around 5% of the 250 or so families who register for kindergarten by the deadline receive their 1st choice. When a school has more first choice applicants than spots, we create a waiting list.

### **How do we determine which elementary school a student will attend?**

We ask families to indicate a first, second and third choice school for their children. Enrollment is ultimately determined by school capacity or how many spots are available in schools, and if necessary, these factors: 1) Siblings. What elementary schools do any sisters or brothers attend? We try to keep families together if we can. 2) Family Income (magnet schools only). We want our schools to be as representative as possible of all families in the Burlington community. 3) Proximity. What school is closest to where you live?

In a nutshell, we look at capacity in a given grade (for example most schools have only two K classes, while some have three). Then we place all siblings. At the non-magnets, then we look at proximity, using google maps walking directions from a student's home to the school to see who lives where. We place those who live closest first and then work our way through the list; if we run out of capacity then we place that (or those) students on the waiting list by looking at what their 2nd choice school is.

Anyone who does not get their first choice we call directly and explain the process and their options to help support them in making an informed choice. After the kindergarten registration deadline we may have another 20-30 applications come in. These families are more likely to be wait-listed at their first choice school as we have less capacity. Either way, if we do not have the capacity, we phone the family to discuss where there are openings, help arrange for visits to schools and explain other details such as transportation options. ***Please note that middle school placement is based upon your home address and is not based on where your child attends elementary school.***

Here is a [link](#) to our complete New Student Registration Page.

We hope this is helpful. If you would like more information feel free to reach out to any of our schools directly. If you cannot reach anyone there, please contact Victor Prussack, Coordinator of Engagement at [vprussac@bsdvt.org](mailto:vprussac@bsdvt.org)

Thank you.